BOROUGH OF ALDEBURGH.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1923.

IPSWICH :
. J. KING, PRINCES STREET.
1924.

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BRITISH MUSEUM
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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1923.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Aldeburgh.

I beg to submit my Ordinary Report for 1923, the Report for 1920, which was of a more full and detailed character, being my Survey Report.

The Census returns are now available, and I have extracted all the figures concerning the Borough and inserted them in my Report, so that you can have an opportunity of examining them at your leisure and for future reference.

They are as follows :—

		1921.	1911.
POPULATION—Males	...	1,189	996
Females	...	1,700	1,378
		2,889	2,374

As the Census was taken on June 19th, instead of April 24th, the Registrar General estimates that the figure 2,889 is 11·4 % more than it ought to be and he estimated the population as 2,563, males 1,055, females 1,508.

ACREAGE, arrived at by Ordnance Survey in 1913 :—

Land (inclusive of Salt Marsh)	...	1,507	Acres
Inland Water	... ...	126	,,
		1,633	,,
Tidal Water	... ...	73	,,
Foreshore	... ...	105	,,
		1,811	,,

Table of Private Families, Classified by Size of Family. Rooms occupied.

Number of Persons in Family.	Number of Private Families occupying the following number of Rooms.								Total Private Fam.	Population in Private Fam.	Rooms occup'd	Average No. of Rooms per Person.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6-7.	8-9.	10 and over.				
1	1	3	2	9	5	7	4	—	31	31	150	4·84
2	—	5	7	50	19	27	12	6	126	252	673	2·67
3	—	1	8	38	21	42	20	5	135	405	765	1·89
4	—	3	2	29	14	34	8	9	99	396	575	1·45
5	—	—	1	24	7	24	5	10	71	355	447	1·26
6	—	1	1	11	10	21	13	4	61	366	389	1·06
7	—	—	1	8	4	5	3	6	27	189	179	0·95
8	—	—	—	5	1	5	3	6	20	160	161	1·01
9	—	—	2	5	2	3	1	4	17	153	112	0·73
10	—	—	—	1	1	4	1	1	8	80	53	0·66
11	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	33	37	1·12
12	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	24	17	0·71
15 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	15	13	0·87
Total Private Families	1	13	24	180	84	172	74	53	601	—	—	
Populatn in Private Families	1	34	84	676	321	711	333	299	—	2459	—	
Rooms occupied	1	26	72	720	420	1087	615	630	—	—	3571	1·45

Buildings, Dwellings, Rooms, and Families.

Buildings completed. Not containing Dwellings.	Buildings completed. Containing Dwellings.	Population, 1921.			Dwellings occupied by non-private families, excluded from Cols. g—p.	Structurally separate Dwellings occupied by Private Families or Vacant. Vacant Census Night. (Included in Cols. k—p.)	Structurally separate Dwellings occupied by Private Families or Vacant. Occupied by Caretaker. (Included in Cols. k—p.)	1—3 Rooms.	4—5 Rooms.	6—8 Rooms.	9 or more Rooms.	Total Dwellings.	Total Rooms.
b.	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*		*f.*	*g.*	*h.*	*k.*	*l.*	*m.*	*n.*	*o.*	*p.*
—	600	2,322	I. Undivided Private Houses ...		12	50	—	32	255	215	86	588	3,570
12	51	204	IV. Shops		—	1	—	1	19	23	8	51	336
74	23	363	V. Others		12	1	—	2	3	3	3	11	
86	674	2,889	Total ...		24	52	—	35	277	241	97	650	3,976
			Principal Buildings in Group V., others—	Vacant on Census Night				1	14	19	18	52	405
17	6	19	Offices, Factories, Warehouses, Workshops	Dwellings occupied by 1 private family				34	263	221	77	595	3,543
				,, ,, ,, 2 ,, families				—	—	1	2	3	28
				,, ,, ,, 3 or more ,,				—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	109	Hotels										
	6	204	Institutions	Total Dwellings occupied by Private Families ...	No.			34	263	222	79	598	3,571
	1	—	Places of Worship		%			*6*	*44*	*37*	*13*	*100*	—
		4	Places of Amusement	Total Private Families therein ...				34	263	223	81	601	—

Persons per acre, 1·8. Private Families, 601. Population in Private Families, 2,459.
Structurally Separate Dwellings occupied, 598. Rooms occupied, 3,571. Rooms per person, 1·45.

Ages and Marital Conditions.

	Males	Females. All.	Females. Married only.
Total -	1,189	1,700	553
Marital Conditions—			
Single - -	636	987	—
Married - -	512	553	553
Widowed - -	40	158	—
Divorced - -	1	2	—
Age (last birthday)—			
0— 4	105	113	—
5— 9	110	103	—
10—14	157	146	—
15—19	110	181	2
20—24	68	138	19
25—29	55	112	40
30—34	88	126	81
35—39	89	142	86
40—44	88	130	74
45—49	65	113	69
50—54	49	90	51
55—59	62	82	50
60—64	46	57	28
65—69	37	65	24
70—74	29	51	21
75—79	16	26	4
80—84	10	20	3
85—89	5	5	1
90—94	—	—	—
95 and over	—	—	—

Occupations.

	Males.	Females
Total Population - -	1,189	1,700
Aged 0—11 - - -	285	267
Aged 12 and upwards -	904	1,433
Fishermen - - -	41	—
Agricultural Occupations -	83	5
Metal Workers - - -	63	—
Workers in Wood - -	30	—
Bricklayers - - -	68	—
Painters - - - -	25	1
Transport Workers - -	109	1
Commercial - - -	73	38
Public Administration and Defence - - - -	24	6
Professional - - -	51	52
Persons Employed in Entertainments - - -	21	3
Ditto in Personal Service -	35	386
Clerks, Typists - - -	36	15
These include—		
Gardeners - - -	35	—
Domestic Servants - -	—	255
Lodging House Keepers -	—	53
Laundry Workers - -	—	32

I have only mentioned Occupations when the Population is over 20.

Total Occupied - - -	739	524
Unoccupied and Retired -	165	909
Total Occupied and Unoccupied - - -	904	1,433

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area, 1,633 acres. Land, 1,507.
Inland Water, 126 = 1,633.
Tidal Water, 73.
Foreshore, 105 = 1,811.

Population, 2,543, estimated by Registrar-General.
2,573, estimated by me. Last year the estimate was 2,570, and the Births exceeded the Deaths by 3.

I give the number on the Electoral List for the last three years, which shows hardly any variation due to migration—

(1921)	Spring, 1.262.	(1922) 1,286.	(1923) 1,295.
	Autumn, 1,272.	1,291.	1,285.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 674 (52 vacant Census night).

Private houses	600.
Shops ...	51.
Various ..	23.

(1923), 686.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 601 private families.

Rateable Value	£11,422
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£44 5s. 0d.

Rates, 13s. 2d. in the pound (County 8s. 8d., Borough 4s. 6d.).

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.		
Births	Legitimate	39	22	17	Birth Rate ...	15·33
	Illegitimate	—	—	—		
					(England & Wales	19·7)
Deaths		27	11	16	Death Rate ...	10·6
					(England & Wales	11·6)

No woman died in or in consequence of child birth.

There was no death under 1 year of age.

Rate per 1,000 (England and Wales, 69).

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, or Diarrhœa.

Principal causes of deaths:—

Heart Disease ...	5	Phthisis ...	1
		(This had been notified.)	
Nephritis ...	5	Arterio Sclerosis	1
Apoplexy ...	3	Suicide ...	1
Senility ...	3	Pneumonia ...	1
Bronchitis ...	2	Other Respiratory	1
Cancer ...	1	Other Diseases	3

Ages at which death occurred :—

Under 15 years	...	0	
15—19 ...	...	1	
20—34 ...	...	1	
35—44 ...	...	1	
45—64 ...	...	4	
65 and over	...	20	Average age of these = 78·4
		27	

The average age of each person dying was 70·3.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Chicken Pox has been added to the list of Notifiable Diseases in the Borough.

The following cases were notified during the year.

Number of Cases.	Disease.	Age.	Sex.
1	Pneumonia	15	F.
	Tuberculosis :—		
3	Pulmonary	55	M.
		38	F.
		25	F.
1	Non-Pulmonary	36	M.
4	Chicken Pox	7	M.
		7	
		10	F.
		8—12	F.
3	Paratyphoid B. :—		
		12	M.
		11	M.
		10	M.
12	Total		

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

As Vaccination Medical Officer I have performed—

Successful Primary Vaccinations ...	39
6 of whom were over one year of age.	
Successful Re-vaccinations	10
Unsuccessful Primary Vaccination ...	1
,, Re-vaccinations ...	4
	54
Certificates of Exemption presented ...	4

I was requested by the Ministry of Health to send them a Special Report on the above three cases of Paratyphoid B, the chief points of which were—

The disease was brought by a boy returning to School and was in no way due to the local water or milk supply, or sanitary conditions. The boy was taken ill on January 28th and the disease was not recognised until February 25th in spite of examinations of the blood and spinal fluid. The Bacillus was eventually found in the urine.

As a precautionary method 89 persons were inocculated with a mixed Vaccine of Paratyphoid A and B type and no further cases occurred.

From the experience gained in these cases, after consultation with various authorities, I am inclined to think—

(1) That there are not true "carriers" of this disease, but the Bacillus may be found in "Convalescents" several months after they have had the disease, and the danger is that the disease may not be recognised unless the excreta are examined ;

(2) The best way to disinfect the excreta is to thoroughly disintegrate them and leave them to soak at least two hours in a saturated solution of bleaching powder to which some hydrochloric acid has been added.

4. CAUSE OF SICKNESS.

No remarks to make.

5. NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Sister Moore paid 4,528 visits during the year.

The Midwives attended 35 cases in that capacity and six cases as Maternity Nurses. Of these 41 cases, nine were admitted to the Home.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

The County Council provide Laboratory assistance, and I am very grateful for the help received from the County M.O.H. and Dr. Cade, the County Pathologist, both at the time of the Paratyphoid cases and for examining swabs taken from throats, and sputa in cases of Tuberculosis.

Apparatus has been installed at 62, High Street, for the examination of sugar in the blood.

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

All the houses within the Sewerage area are connected with the Main Sewers. Outside this area are 18 houses with cesspools.

Mr. J. C. Gordon, the Sanitary Inspector, reports that:—

The Public Health Committee have approved plans for 10 new houses, four of which have been completed and are occupied, four are in course of erection, and two not yet commenced.

The above are not houses of the working class, and are not erected under the Ministry of Health Housing Schemes.

There have been no houses erected or plans submitted under the Housing Acts, 1919—1923.

House Refuse is collected from each house at least once a week.

There are few houses with proper sanitary dust bins.

The printed circulars issued by the Public Health Committee have had practically no effect.

Eleven Statutory Notices were served during the year for abatement of nuisances, all of which were complied with.

There are 27 Registered Workshops, which are visited periodically; amongst them are 4 Bake Offices.

Food is inspected by the Inspector of the Police acting on behalf of the County Council.

There are 2 Unlicensed Slaughter Houses.
1 Licensed ,, ,,

These are kept clean and whitewashed four times a year.

There are 3 Registered Cowkeepers.
3 ,, Dairies.
5 ,, Milk Shops.

One of these supplies Certified Grade A Milk, which is examined bacteriologically by the County Council.

I have taken samples from the other 4 shops and had a count taken, and since then a Demonstration has been given to show the workers how to produce clean milk, and I hope the future counts will show encouraging results.

There is no smoke nuisance.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part time officer, and the Surveyor and Sanitary Officer is a whole time officer. Part of the salaries of both these officers is paid through the County Council.

9. HOUSING.

I drew your attention last year to the overcrowding that was going on in 15 houses. Unfortunately the tenants appear to be unable to afford a higher rent than 6s. a week, but if some houses could be built by private enterprise or otherwise, with the aid of the Government subsidies, I think this might indirectly help to relieve the overcrowding. In any case there is a demand for houses for the working classes at a rental of 10s. a week, which I hope will shortly be met, and I would draw your attention to a booklet published by The Brotherhood Movement, 37, Norfolk Street, Strand, the title of which is "The Housing Problem and The Way Out," price 6d.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(*a*) Total 4

(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :—

(1) By the Local Authority ... None

(2) By other Bodies or persons ... None

I. Unfit dwelling houses :—

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 26

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 8 for the year making total of 54 in all

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 4

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 5

II. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices None

III. Action under Statutory powers :—

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 ... None

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(*a*) By owners 1

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... None

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 3

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made None

(3) Number in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ... None

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. D. SOMERS.